

Enforce

CBP employs a multi-layered, risk-based approach to enforce IPR at the border. This includes CBP's ability to:

- **Target shipments based on intelligence** to better prevent the importation of merchandise that infringes on trademarks, copyrights, and exclusion orders issued by the ITC.
- Engage in **Trade Special Operations, which are collaborative operations between CBP, industry, and rights holders.** Risk-based targeting focused to enforce IPR infringements and counterfeit goods violations.
- For more information, visit <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/priority-issues/ipr/statistics>

IPR Key Enforcement Statistics

- In fiscal year (FY) 2020, the number of **IPR seizures was 26,503.**
- In FY 2020 the **total estimated manufacturer's suggested retail price** of the seized goods, had they been genuine, was over **\$1.3 billion.**
(<https://www.cbp.gov/trade/priority-issues/ipr/statistics>)

Reporting Suspicious Trade Activity

If you have any suspicion of or information regarding suspected fraud or illegal trade activity, please contact CBP through the e-Allegations website:
<https://eallegations.cbp.gov/Home/Index2>

IPR Contact Information:

For assistance regarding IPR enforcement contact the IPR Help Desk at iprhelppdesk@cbp.dhs.gov

To request information on CBP's recordation program, please contact the IPR Branch at iprrquestions@cbp.dhs.gov

Centers of Excellence and Expertise transform the way CBP approaches trade operations and work with the international trade community to facilitate the timely resolution of trade compliance issues nationwide. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.cbp.gov/trade/centers-excellence-and-expertise-information>



Intellectual Property Rights

Priority Trade Issue
Fiscal Year 2020



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Office of Trade



Overview

CBP has identified **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) as a Priority Trade Issue (PTI)**, which represents a high-risk area that can cause significant revenue loss, harm the U.S. economy, or threaten the health and safety of American people. CBP focuses its actions and resources around PTIs to better direct an effective trade facilitation and enforcement approach.

To address the IPR PTI, CBP engages in the interdiction of products that infringe on U.S. trademarks, copyrights, or exclusion orders issued by the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC). The enforcement of IPR supports public health and safety, promotes economic prosperity, and preserves domestic and international security.

CBP has developed a strategic approach that focuses on collaborative efforts to **educate** and **engage** stakeholders to deter the importation of illicit goods, and employs innovative approaches to **enforce** IPR law at all ports of entry.

Educate

CBP collaborates with stakeholders to identify risk, and interdict prohibited merchandise. Additionally, CBP offers trainings, programs, and resources for both agency personnel and rights holders.

The “Truth Behind Counterfeits” public awareness campaign aims to educate the public on the potential risks often associated with the purchase of counterfeit goods. For more information on the public awareness campaign please visit: <https://www.cbp.gov/FakeGoodsRealDangers>

CBP distinguishes legitimate goods from an increasingly sophisticated assortment of illicit merchandise by leveraging the following resources:

- The **e-Recordation Program** allows IPR holders to record trademarks and copyrights that are registered with the U.S. Trademark Office or U.S. Copyright Office, which enables CBP to maximize IPR protection at the border (<https://iprs.cbp.gov/>).
- **Product Identification Guides**, produced by rights holders, assist CBP in making infringement determinations at ports of entry.
- **Product Training Webinars**, provided by rights holders for CBP personnel, allow stakeholders to have face-to-face interactions with the officers and import specialists who will be inspecting shipments and identifying IPR infringements.

Engage

CBP engages with foreign governments, federal agencies, state and local authorities, and private industry to protect America’s innovation and competitiveness. To ensure effective IPR enforcement at the border, CBP:

- Works with rights holders to deliver technical product training and updated Product Identification Guides to officers in the field
- Partners with the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center), to exchange enforcement and targeting data with other IPR Center partners, and to participate in multi-agency operations that target counterfeit and pirated goods.
- Partners closely with our sister agency, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) - the investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security - to combat criminal organizations that illegally exploit American trade.
- Pursues agreements with foreign counterparts to conduct joint customs IPR enforcement operations, share effective enforcement practices, and exchange information on violations to identify illicit trade trafficking.
- To work with CBP visit <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/priority-issues/ipr/protection>